

MAY 25, 1976

A CUBAN WITHDRAWAL FROM ANGOLA?

ANNCR: V.O.A. NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY DISCUSSES REPORTS THAT CUBAN TROOPS MIGHT BE WITHDRAWN FROM ANGOLA:

VOICE: LAST JANUARY PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO FINALLY ADMITTED PUBLICLY WHAT HAD BEEN COMMON KNOWLEDGE FOR MONTHS --- THAT CUBAN TROOPS WERE IN ANGOLA, ASSISTING THE POPULAR MOVEMENT IN THE CIVIL WAR THERE. NOW, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT ANOTHER PERSONAL STATEMENT HAS COME FROM THE CUBAN PRIME MINISTER, SUGGESTING THAT THE TROOPS MAY BE REMOVED. ACCORDING TO SWEDISH PREMIER OLOF PALME, MR. CASTRO SENT HIM A LETTER SAYING THAT CUBAN TROOPS EITHER WERE BEING OR WOULD BE WITHDRAWN AT THE RATE OF SO MANY A WEEK. AND PREMIER PALME PASSED THIS INFORMATION ON TO SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER DURING HIS VISIT TO STOCKHOLM THIS WEEK. (OPT) ACCORDING TO STOCKHOLM RADIO, THE CASTRO LETTER ALSO SPECIFIED THAT THERE WAS NO INTENT TO USE CUBAN TROOPS ANYWHERE ELSE IN AFRICA OR LATIN-AMERICA. (END OPT)

NATURALLY, THIS DEVELOPMENT RAISES A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS. DOES THE LETTER ACCURATELY EXPRESS CUBAN INTENTIONS? IS THERE ANY PARTICULAR REASON WHY PRIME MINISTER CASTRO SHOULD HAVE MADE THIS DECISION AT THIS TIME? WHAT WOULD BE THE EXACT RATE OF WITHDRAWAL, AND WOULD IT BE PARTIAL OR TOTAL? WHAT EFFECT WOULD SUCH A WITHDRAWAL HAVE ON CUBAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS? AND SO ON.

NOT SURPRISINGLY, SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS ASKED ABOUT THE LETTER AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE IN LUXEMBOURG TUESDAY. MR. KISSINGER SAID THAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR FURTHER CONFIRMATION, BUT THAT TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF CUBAN TROOPS -- IF IT WERE TO TAKE PLACE -- WOULD

CERTAINLY BE REGARDED AS A "POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT." HE REFUSED TO SPECULATE ON POSSIBLE CUBAN MOTIVES, OR ON POSSIBLE INFLUENCES ON CUBA -- ALTHOUGH HE DID POINT OUT THAT AFRICAN NATIONS, AS WELL AS THE UNITED STATES, HAD OPPOSED THE CUBAN INTERVENTION. AS FOR THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF THE REPORTED WITHDRAWAL ON CUBAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, HE RECALLED THAT IT WAS A PRECONDITION OF ANY IMPROVEMENT IN THOSE RELATIONS, AND ADDED THAT THE WITHDRAWAL WOULD HAVE TO BE TOTAL AND COMPLETE. (OPT) LAST JULY -- BEFORE THE ANGOLA CRISIS DEVELOPED -- MR. KISSINGER HAD STATED THAT WASHINGTON WAS READY TO HAVE WHAT HE CALLED "SERIOUS EXCHANGES WITH CUBA" ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS. THE CUBAN INTERVENTION, OF COURSE, HALTED EFFORTS TOWARD A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND HAVANA. (END OPT)

THE NEXT STEP, AS SECRETARY KISSINGER INDICATED, IS TO ACCURATELY DETERMINE CUBAN INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO REMOVAL OF THE TROOPS. IF THEY WERE TO BE REMOVED, HOWEVER, IT OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE -- TO USE HIS TERM -- A "POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT." IT COULD HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT IN A NUMBER OF WAYS, PARTICULARLY ON THE FUTURE OF AFRICA. THE UNITED STATES HAS INSISTED RIGHT ALONG THAT THE DESTINY OF AFRICA MUST BE DECIDED BY AFRICANS THEMSELVES AND NOT BY IDEOLOGICAL CRUSADERS FROM THE OUTSIDE. IF PRIME MINISTER CASTRO HAS IN FACT DISAVOWED SUCH A CRUSADING ROLE -- SOMETHING WHICH IS NOT YET CERTAIN -- IT WOULD BE AN ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT.